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The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter July 1993

# CENTER SCENE

## HAPPY TRAILS TO MARV

After a little over 34 years of Federal service, Marv LeNoue will retire on July 2, 1993. Marv's successful career is marked by many achievements, including receiving the rank of Meritorious Executive from former President Bush in 1992.

Meritorious Executives are career SES members who have exhibited exceptional performance for at least 3 years. Nominations are reviewed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and panels of leading individuals from government and the private sector. Awardees are recommended to the President, who makes the final selections. Competition for this honor is extremely intense, and only about 5 percent of the potential candidates receive the rank of Meritorious Executive each year. Marv was one of three from BLM.

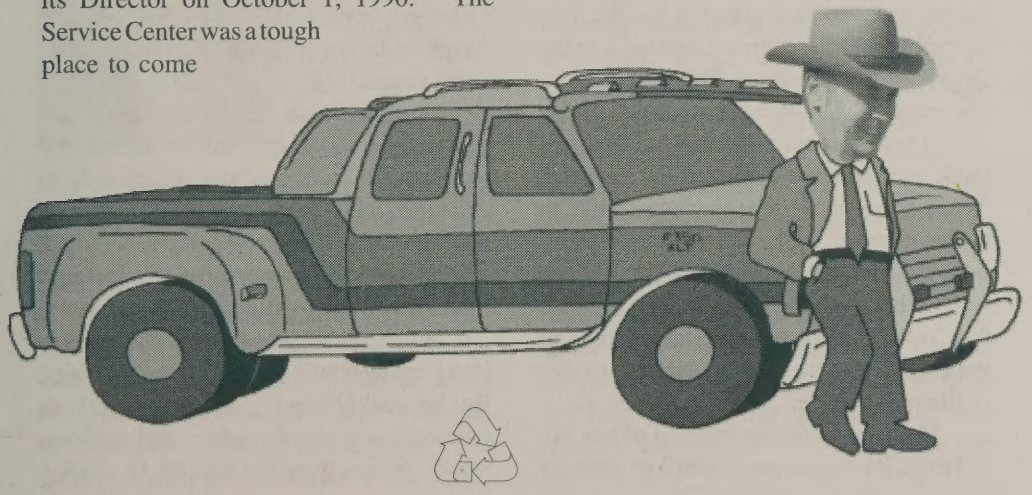
In a letter from former Secretary of the Interior Manual Lujan, Marv was thanked for his outstanding efforts and contributions to the Department of the Interior and to the American people. Marv said, "During my career, my consistent philosophy has been to work hard and do the best I could at whatever I was doing." Meritorious Executives receive a lump-sum payment of $10,000 and a silver pin.

Marv has mixed feelings about his time at the Service Center. He came here as its Director on October 1, 1990. "The Service Center was a tough place to come to and now, it is a tough place to leave," said Marv. "I became the Service Center Director with the intention and personal commitment that I would make a difference— that the Service Center would be a different organization when I left compared to when I arrived. You will have to judge if that has happened and if any change is good or bad." Marv feels that the Service Center is at the heart of BLM operations, and the employees here are the muscle that make it work.

Marv plans to do "very little" with all the free time he is going to have. His immediate plans for the future, however, are to help with the small-grain harvest on his brother-in-law's farm in Minnesota, where Marv and wife Bette have a small place by a 14,000-acre lake. After that, he'll head to Everett, Washington, where he plans to help work on his second son's house and also do some salmon fishing. Then it's back to the lake home in Minnesota to put a new roof on before winter sets in.

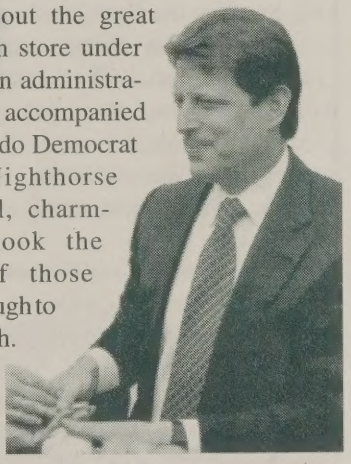
Marv and Bette plan to spend the winter traveling with their fifth-wheel trailer along the Gulf Coast before they permanently settle somewhere. Marv says, "It's something we've been wanting to do and planning for a long time."

We wish them well!



## GORE VISITS DFC

Vice President of the United States Al Gore visited the Denver Federal Center (DFC) on June 2, 1993, as part of a 2-day stay in Denver. In an exclusive meeting, Gore conducted a 30-minute deliberation with bureau directors about their recommendations for how to reinvent Government. Following the private meeting, Gore addressed more than 400 Federal Center employees in a town meeting that was centered around the thoughts and concerns of Federal employees. Gore asked the group to participate in sharing with him how the Government could be more practical in may areas, such as procurement, personnel, and budget. After his business was concluded and he was getting ready to leave the Federal Center, Gore addressed more than 350 employees who waited anxiously to get a once-in-a-lifetime chance to shake the hand of the Vice President. He spoke to the crowd about the great changes in store under the Clinton administration, and, accompanied by Colorado Democrat Ben Nighthorse Campbell, charmingly shook the hands of those lucky enough to be in reach.



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# DOI HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

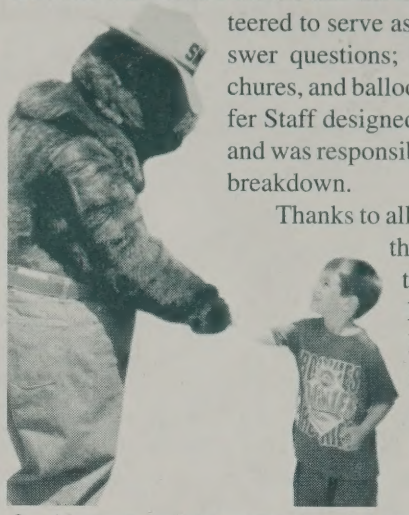
On May 21, 22, and 23, 1993, the Bureau of Land Management participated in the first Department of the Interior Open House at the Denver Federal Center. The Open House was sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey; other participating agencies included: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Surface Mining, and Minerals Management Service. With the exception of hail at 3 p.m. on the 22nd, the event was sunny and successful.

*Visitors were interested in recreation opportunities on public lands.*

An opening ceremony was held in a tent east of Building 20. Harry Tourtelot, Director's Representative for USGS' Central Region, opened the ceremony. Dallas Peck, Director of USGS, welcomed everyone and said that this was a good opportunity to break down the fences and gates of the Federal Center for the public.

The Open House featured exhibits and videos covering a wide range of topics, including earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, mountain biking, stream gaging, water sampling, fire suppression, drill rigs, map reading, and recreation in Colorado. Visitors had the opportunity to pan for gold, visit Smokey the Bear, "Ask a Scientist" questions, use surveying equipment, and "Identify My Rock." The Earthquake facility in Golden was also open and was of particular interest to visitors; the facility's spokesperson, Waverly Person, is often seen on local and national news when earthquakes occur.

Approximately 11,000 people entered the gates of the Federal Center during the Open House, excluding volunteers and Federal employees. About 400 visitors stopped by the BLM exhibits in the lobby of Building 40 and explored the outside exhibits. Thirty-six BLM employees from the Service Center and the Colorado State Office volunteered to serve as goodwill ambassadors; answer questions; and pass out posters, brochures, and balloons. The Technology Transfer Staff designed the well received exhibits, and was responsible for their timely setup and breakdown.



*Smokey the Bear (Michael Goodman) shakes a young visitor's hand at BLM's Fire Management display.*

Thanks to all who participated in making this event a success! Special thanks to Debra Carter, Peter Doran, and Melissa McNichols (CO State Office). Without their help and coordination, BLM's participation in the Open House never would have happened.

## NAME CHANGES

Just a reminder: if you change your name as a result of marriage or court action, you must report the change to the Social Security Administration (SSA) before the Division of Personnel can change your personnel records. SSA typically requires either a copy of the marriage license or court action changing your name to change their records. Once the name change has been reported to SSA, you should submit an SF-52, Request for Personnel Action, to the Division of Personnel.

# NEW MANAGER TAKES THE REINS

On June 1, Barbara Eaton came on board as the new ALMRS/Modernization Integrated Project Manager. She has spent her first few weeks becoming familiar with ALMRS/Modernization and its related projects and meeting the project staff.

Barbara began her Government career as a secretary at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas in 1975. She attended night school to complete both a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in industrial psychology. "I never planned on a career in automation," she said.

But in 1978, when a developmental position came open—a GS-5/7/9/11 job in computer science—Barbara took the required test and was selected for the job. Since then, she has climbed the ladder in the Department of Defense (DOD) to build a 15-year career in data automation.

"I really enjoy supervising because I think you can make a difference," she said. "I'm a hands-off type of manager. I like to be supportive; I like to be a facilitator. Based on what I've seen, that will work well with the group of people here, because they're highly motivated." She added, "I'm impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of the people here."

Though she has spent most of her life in Texas, Barbara is not a complete stranger to Colorado. From 1983-1986, she worked at Lowry Air Force Base as Program Manager of the Human Resources Laboratory's computer-based training system. She was then promoted and transferred back to Texas, where she was involved in automation and data conversion of DOD's civilian pay system, as a Branch Chief and then Division Chief. "I hated to leave Colorado," she said. "I kept trying to get back up here."

Barbara successfully completed the civilian pay system project last October. "It's hard to work yourself out of a job that you enjoy," she said. But the project's completion gave her the chance to return to Colorado, where she hopes her son and daughter-in-law will relocate with a soon-to-be grandchild.

Her son, Dave, 23, is finishing a carpentry apprenticeship in Austin. Her daughter, Amy, 21, will graduate this year from college in San Antonio and plans a career in international law. Barbara's husband, Mike, is a systems accountant for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at Lowry.

When she is not working, Barbara enjoys playing tennis and attending craft fairs. But her real hobby is playing soccer, both women's and co-ed, indoor and outdoor, which she has done for the last 12 years.

## SHARING A COMMON INTEREST

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Rocky Mountain Mapping Center and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Service Center recognize that their overall missions differ; however, both are concerned with spatial data. This common interest requires close coordination between USGS/BLM to maximize resources and eliminate duplicate efforts. A USGS and BLM initiative to facilitate project and product information exchange has been established in the form of two liaisons. The liaisons will support and enhance coordination of data exchange, technical support, standards development, and cooperative agreements over a 4-year period.

*Carol Giffin (l) and Debra Carter (r).*

Who are these liaisons you ask? The USGS liaison to BLM is Carol Giffin. Carol has a diverse background in mapping and geodesy, and has performed technical, supervisory, and liaison duties. Carol has also worked with a broad range of products in the digital cartography arena.

The BLM liaison to USGS is Debra Carter, formerly the SC Cartography Section Chief. Debra has experience with a variety of USGS and BLM mapping products and programs. Her background includes technical and supervisory work in cartography, digital production, and GIS.

Essentially, Debra and Carol are tasked with facilitating cooperation between BLM and USGS through the exchange of appropriate data and technical information standards and data collection methodologies. They have received requests to obtain maps, overlays, etc., but that is not the reason for the positions. They are formulating a short- and long-term strategy to achieve coordinated efforts. Issues under consideration: implementing joint edition BLM/USGS 100k surface status maps; applying BLM's Automated Land and Mineral Record System (ALMRS) and Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) to USGS/BLM programs; promoting technical interchange regarding USGS/BLM advances in digital data collection, generation, and revision; and establishing resulting cooperative agreements.

Carol is now located at the BLM Service Center, Division of Project Management (Building 40), and Debra is located at the USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, National Mapping Division, Branch of Program Management (Building 25).

## ON THE HEP SIDE

*Theresa Fresquez (SC) and Rob Cervantes (WO) share a moment of fun at the National Image Training Conference.*

The National Image Training Conference and Convention was held May 24-29, 1993, in San Antonio, Texas. The Conference was attended by BLM Director Jim Baca and by Lee Allen and Christina Hassan, members of Washington Office's recruiting staff. Several Service Center employees, including Roger Molinar, Armando Lazarte, Rosina Martinez, Theresa Fresquez, and Emily Alvarado attended workshops and assisted in the BLM booths.

## EVA'S TRAVELS

*by Eva Thomas*

Before transferring to the Service Center, I was working in the Rock Springs District Office in Wyoming as a Budget Analyst. I had 10 years of district-level experience and had also obtained state-level experience while working on numerous assignments in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

I came to the Service Center in September 1992 as a Budget Analyst in the Division of Finance, Branch of Budget and Program Information. With over 9 months of exposure to the Service Center, I am feeling slightly overwhelmed. It is a major adjustment going from a field office and working with horse wranglers, firefighters, and many other resource specialists to working with accountants and financial system specialists. I had no idea the amount of work that is performed in the Division of Finance. The work involves everything from balancing general ledgers to preparing financial statements and congressional reports. Coming from the field, I was surprised by the capabilities of the Federal Financial System (FFS). The system is so complex and requires continual maintenance from a number of valuable finance personnel. Field offices are not aware of the Division's FFS responsibilities because the field uses only about 10 percent of the big FFS pie.

Recently I also had an opportunity to work on a 2-week detail to Washington, DC. During that time I assisted in the preparation of the 1994 Budget Justification package to Congress. My DC experience was a trip I'll never forget. Only Budget Analysts get excited looking at effects and capability statements addressed to congressional members. The work in Washington gave me a look at the big picture in the budget world.

In my career with BLM, I've worked at four levels of the organization and I like working at the Service Center. The work is challenging and the people are great to work with. It's a different world working in the Division of Finance, but a great opportunity and a rewarding learning experience.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

Several Division of Finance employees perform critical duties that may not be well known or appreciated throughout the Service Center or the Bureau. However, there would be negative impacts on our employees, office budgets, and relationships with the Department of the Interior and the Treasury Department if these duties were not performed. For example:

- Accountability and control of all Bureau accountable officers, such as collection officers, are handled by Linda Davis. Linda also requests refunds from travel agencies and airlines for unused travel tickets.
- All BLM employee debts are handled by Wanda Harryman. This includes issuing and following up on bills, establishing repayment plans, and setting up payroll deductions.
- Linda Robbins serves as the Bureau's finance contact with payroll (at the Bureau of Reclamation) and is responsible for all payroll reconciliations and deductions. These include all court-ordered employee deductions and IRS tax levies.
- Loann Johnson accounts for monetary credits, updates the bond and surety file, processes unclaimed monies (such as the Great Colorado Payback), and makes the daily Service Center bank deposit. In addition, Loann performs the Service Center portion of the Alaska fire stores reconciliation.
- Coordination with the Treasury Department to straighten out lost, stolen, or missing checks is handled by Sandi Neff. Sandi is also involved in check cancellations.
- Control and accountability for the Bureau's 337 imprest and change-making funds are handled by Therese Work. This includes monitoring fund activity; performing utilization analyses of individual funds; and initiating all changes, increases, and decreases to fund levels.

In addition, these employees process all Bureau billing and collection documents and maintain unearned and suspense accounts. These are the types of duties that are unnoticed until they are not performed or performed poorly. While some of their duties are unpleasant (there is certainly no joy in garnishing an employee's wages or issuing him/her a bill), they are still performed competently and professionally.

*Left to right: Wanda Harryman, Loann Johnson, Linda Robbins, Therese Work, Linda Davis. Not pictured: Sandi Neff.*

## PERSONNEL NEWS

**New Employees:**

Scott Archer, Physical Scientist, SC-212
Carroll Lorenz, Eng. Technician, SC-673
Robert Pinkney, Program Analyst, SC-657
Rachel Stranahan, Mail & File Clerk, SC-616
Russell Todaro, Personnel Clerk, SC-631
Adam Trujillo, Editorial Clerk, SC-140
Ruth Welch, Secretary, SC-340

**Separations:**

William Ball, Jr., Phys. Scientist, SC-670
Robert Henry, Supv. Budg. Analyst, SC-614

# BUILDING ENGINEERING MOVES

The Branch of Building Engineering has come a long way since occupying space in Building 40 well over a decade ago. The Branch then consisted of a mere staff of nine, including an architect, two mechanical engineers, one structural and two electrical engineers, a single technician, a staff assistant, and Branch Chief, L.J. Porter.

The Branch, which has Bureauwide responsibility for building design and Architect/Engineer contract management, relocated to Building 50, just west of the Division of Personnel, in 1987. With projects ranging from small structures at recreation sites to large multimillion-dollar visitor centers and interagency office complexes, the staff became increasingly diversified to handle the myriad of items inherent to design, construction, modification, and building use for BLM. Few had time to realize the lack of space and aesthetics that surrounded them.

The Branch had almost tripled by the end of 1992, having added even more specialties in landscape architecture, civil engineering, project management, and space planning (interior design), as well as support staff, an editorial assistant, and a stay-in-school student. Growth in the Finance, Resource Services, and SC Support Section staffs, coupled with the Branch's need for additional space and its growing interaction with the Procurement staffs, resulted in the move off-campus to new facilities at 390 Union.

Building Engineering now occupies nearly two-thirds of the sixth floor at 390 Union, with enough space to successfully continue providing the skills and expertise the Bureau demands. The open space and incredible vistas have become an inspiration to all and employees are urged to come visit these new quarters. Exhibits will be set up to demonstrate the creative processes in problem solving and design that the Branch is so well known for. Mark your calendars for July 22 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!!

**Open House**
**390 Union, 6th Floor**
**July 22, 1993, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
**Parking on top elevated portion of garage, facing Federal Center**